



# *The Redeemer*

## *Review*

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 12

December, 2006

### **Holiday Schedule**

**November 26**

**4:00 p.m. Advent Festival**

**December 10**

**9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Christmas Worship in Music  
Featuring Our Adult Choirs**

**December 17**

**9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program  
2:00 p.m. Caroling & Potluck**

**December 24**

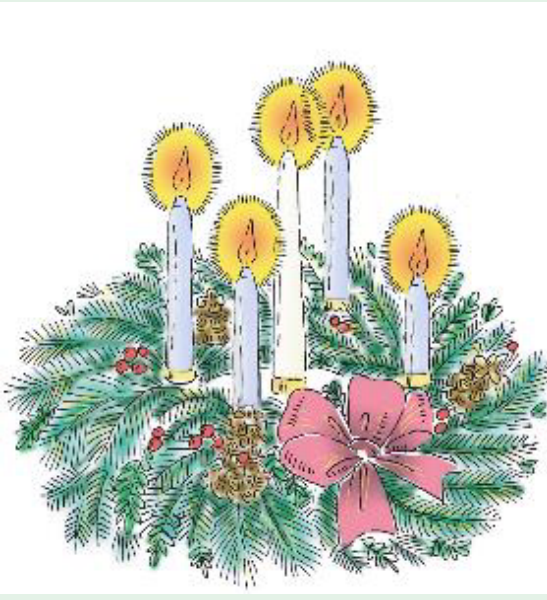
**9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Services**

**Christmas Eve Worship**

**5:00 p.m. - Family Service**

**7:30 p.m. - Traditional Worship**

**11:00 p.m. - Communion Service**



## **Christmas Giving: Heifer Project**

Christmas is a wonderful time of year for those of us who follow Jesus. We remember the hope that God sent into the world with the birth of his son. So often, however what is for us a simple time of receiving God's gift of a child, has become a time of frustration. With Christmas literally becoming a marketing event, it often loses its significance as a time of hope and a time of grace. In our rush to make sure we fulfill the cultural obligations of the season, and do the things "expected" of us by society, we often forget what this season is about.

This year we want to encourage you to reclaim Christmas in your practice of gift giving by giving to the Heifer Project. Through the Heifer Project we contribute money to purchase heifers, goats, chickens, llamas and other livestock that are given to families in need around the world.

Many of you have purchased some of these as a gift for your family and friends in the past. In doing that, you have not only provided a way for families to feed themselves around the world, you have also reclaimed the true spirit of the Christ child. This year we will again be working with the heifer project. Please consider becoming part of this giving program and reclaim the true meaning of the season.

### ***Redeemer Review***

Published Monthly by  
*Our Redeemer's*

#### **United Methodist Church**

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Schaumburg IL 60194-3900  
(847) 882-6116

email: [orumc@core.com](mailto:orumc@core.com)

Website: [www.orumc.org](http://www.orumc.org)

**Worship Services at 9:00 and 10:30 am**

**Pastor:**

**Rev. Bill Shaw**

**Church Secretary:**

**Donna Echnert**

**Director of Youth Ministries:**

**Marianne Rogenski**

**Director of Discipleship:**

**Carolyn Meneely**

**Co-Editors:**

**Jim Cottrell & Jerry Mc Daniel**



## Being part of Our Redeemer's Church Family

by *Carolyn Meneely*

Have you wondered what Micah Ministries means? Or H2O? Or UMM, UMW or ORUMC? For anyone who is considering *Our Redeemer's* as their spiritual home, we have two information classes geared to answering these and any other questions about *Our Redeemer's*. Even if you are a member, it is an opportunity to learn more about *Our Redeemer's*.

**Pizza with the Pastor** is an informal and relaxed luncheon with Pastor Bill – to answer questions about our faith as a United Methodist Church and to learn about the *Our Redeemer's* church family.

Following a week or two later, **Coffee with Committees (and Ministries)** is a chance to talk with the leaders of *Our Redeemer's* ministries and administrative committees. It will be an opportunity to learn about our service to others and about the opportunities to participate in our ministries, missions and organization.

**Pizza with the Pastor** was most recently held on November 19 and the next **Coffee** will be December 3 at 10:30 am after the first worship service. Child care will be available. The classes will be offered several times in 2007, as well.

We are always glad to have everyone join us in any way they choose at *Our Redeemer's*, whether becoming a member, simply attending regularly or visiting occasionally. Especially during the Christmas season, we hope you will invite your friends and neighbors to join us in worship and fellowship and to be a part of our church family.

And on Sunday mornings during this joyful season, make a special effort to welcome everyone. During passing of the peace, shake the hand of someone you don't know. During refreshments, offer a cookie to someone you haven't seen before. During worship, share a smile with a stranger across the sanctuary. These little acts of friendship will spread the love of Christmas.

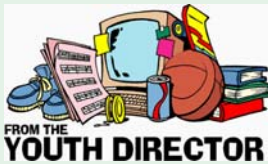
**Carolyn Meneely**  
Director of Discipleship

**P.S.** Micah Ministries fights for social justice – especially against hunger. It's name is based on Micah 6:8.

H2O stands for His 2 Own and is the high school youth group.

UMM and UMW is United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women.

ORUMC is our own *Our Redeemer's* United Methodist Church.



## Youth News

### *Open Mic Night*

*by Marianne Rogenski*

The 5th Annual Open Mic Night at ORUMC was a huge success—thanks to everyone involved! We had beautiful voices, a great band, awesome instrument solos, duets, and trios, many funny jokes, and more! Thank you to Michelle Hill for organizing the event, to Steve Miller who worked in the tech booth, to Sue Bruneau, Robert Nordli, and Daniel Shaw for em-ceeding, and to all those who were able to help transform the sanctuary at either end of the event. This is truly an amazing ORUMC family event that I look forward to every year—thanks for coming!

### *Youth Ski Trip 2007 January 12-14, 2007*

Friday evening we will leave ORUMC at 6:30 p.m. and we go to Wesley Woods in Wisconsin. We ski on Saturday and there is a Christian concert that night. We arrive back at ORUMC around 11:00 a.m. Sunday. The cost is \$110 per person and there are scholarships available. This is for all Jr. and Sr. High students. For more information please contact Cathy Mottar at 847-882-6116 or [mottarc@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:mottarc@sbcbglobal.net). Forms can be obtained from Cathy or at [www.niccamp.org](http://www.niccamp.org)-the winter camps page. Forms and money must be given to Cathy by December 17, 2006.

## *Youth Club*

The Youth Club (4th-6th Graders) will be making Cookies in a Jar on December 10 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. They will each get to make one jar to keep or give as a gift. There will also be games, food, fellowship and fun! Please RSVP by December 3 if your youth clubber will attend (and they can bring friends!). I also need some parents to help with purchasing ingredients and food for the event. If you are able to help, please contact Marianne at 847-882-6116 or [marianne@orumc.org](mailto:marianne@orumc.org). The next event for this group will be Service Saturday on February 17, 2007. Look for more info for that soon!

### *Confirmation (7th and 8th graders)*

It has been an awesome year so far for this group—here is the schedule for the next couple of months!

#### **December**

3 Confirmation 4:00-5:30 p.m.

#### **January**

7 Confirmation 4:00-5:30 p.m.

12-14 Ski Trip TBA

21 Confirmation 4:00-5:30 p.m.

### *Sr. High (9th-12th graders)*

We will continue with H2O (His to Own) in the evenings and our brunches on Sunday mornings through the winter—keep on bringing those friends! I would also like for you to feel free to bring some CDs that you would like to listen to—introduce the group to your favorites!

On December 8 we will be going to PADS at Prince of Peace. Meet at ORUMC at 6:00 p.m. and we will caravan over. It will last until 9:00 p.m. We need donations of boxes, wrapping paper, and tape, since we will be wrapping

gifts and serving dinner.

## **December**

3 H2O 6:30-8:00 p.m.

8 PADS at Prince of Peace 6:00-9:00 p.m.

## **January**

7 H2O 6:30-8:00 p.m.

12-14 Ski Trip TBA

21 H2O 6:30-8:00 p.m.

28 Brunch 10:30-11:30 a.m.

## ***30 Hour Famine***

This exciting event, where we come to church and fast for 30 hours — all while learning about the hungry in the world and raising money for them — is coming again in February! Mark your calendars for the weekend of February 23-25. The lock-in will be from Friday evening to the breaking of the fast on Saturday at 9:00 p.m. Sunday is Famine Sunday. We will start handing out permission forms and fundraising packets in January. If you want more information before then please contact Marianne at 847-882-6116 or [marianne@orumc.org](mailto:marianne@orumc.org). This weekend is for Jr. and Sr. High school students.

## ***Appalachia Service Project (ASP) News***

The next meeting for those that plan on attending this mission trip will be Thursday, January 11, 2007. Please mark your calendars and try to be there—these meetings are required for all ASP volunteers. If you are interested in this trip but have not gotten your name on the list yet, please contact Marianne ASAP—847-882-6116 or [marianne@orumc.org](mailto:marianne@orumc.org) New

## **From Education**

*by Amy Johnson*

### ***Christmas Program***

***December 17, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.***

Merry Christmas! We are very excited about our Christmas program coming up on December 17! We will be having a rehearsal December 16 at 10:00 a.m. The children will be participating in BOTH services on December 17 so please plan to stay for the second service.

### ***Come Caroling With Us!***

***December 17, 2:00 p.m.***

We would like to invite everyone that loves to sing Christmas carols to come with us caroling on December 17 at 2:00 p.m. We will be caroling with the youth of the church at different locations in the area.

We will meet at the church at 2:00 p.m. and go caroling until 5:00 p.m. and then return to the church for a potluck. We will provide the Sloppy Joe main course.

We will have no Sunday school for two weeks after the program (December 24 and December 31) and will start again in the New Year on January 7!

We are looking for volunteers to help us out each Sunday. There are some classes that are much bigger than we anticipated (GOOD NEWS for us! We're growing!). We could always use an extra hand in the existing classes! Please contact **Amy Johnson** or **Gwyn Greenwalt** at 847-882-6116 to volunteer.





## December Birthdays

12/5 Matthew Young

12/6 Meghan Lowry

Blake Breda

Joseph Dombek

12/14 Chalisa Kulprathipanja

12/21 Abigail Hill

12/22 Jill Murphy

12/27 Dominic Gomes

12/27 Brendan Gorvett

12/27 Eric Theile

12/29 Nick Pope

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## United Methodist Men

*December 16, 8:00 a.m.  
(NOTE Date change from Dec 2)  
District Men's Advent Breakfast*

We will meet at church at 7:15 a.m. to caravan to Elgin for the UMM District Advent Breakfast. Call Marshall Nystrom, 847-882-6116, if you can attend.

*December 9, 8:00 a.m.  
Regular Breakfast Meeting*

All men of *Our Redeemer's* are invited to our monthly breakfast meeting at Old Country Buffet on Barrington Road. Ask for the group discount when you check in.

## United Methodist Women

Get into the Holiday Spirit with the United Methodist Women. All women of the church are invited to join us for our big event of the season- *PRAYER PARTNER ORNAMENT EXCHANGE*.

To get a headstart on the season, this event is scheduled for Saturday, December 9 at 9:00 a.m. in the Wesley Room at Church. Bring a wrapped ornament for your prayer partner (the person who you've been sending cards to all year).

Even if you don't have a prayer partner, join us for breakfast and fellowship. Breakfast is provided.



## Crisis Center Needs for December

The Crisis Center needs women's gifts such as: wristwatches, clock radios, journals/pens, sofa throws (new).

They also need children's gifts such as: non-violent toys 1-12 yrs. old, dolls, puzzles, games, trucks and cars.

They need teen gifts such as: Walkmans or similar, wristwatches, wallets/purse on a string, and bath sets (lotion/gel/etc.).

Please place items in the Crisis Center basket in the office.



## Caring Ministries Corner

### Gifts from the Heart

Thanks to all who participated in Gifts from the Heart. Don't forget to bring the unwrapped gifts, bundled together for each child, on Sunday, December 3. They will be delivered to ChildServ by the Gifts from the Heart elves.

If you have any questions about Gifts from the Heart, please contact **Carol Hollingsworth** at 847-882-6116 or [clh1325@comcast.net](mailto:clh1325@comcast.net).

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### PADS Help Needed

Help is really needed for the PADS site at Prince of Peach Lutheran Church every Friday evening.

The PADS site operates from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. It provides food and sleeping accommodations for homeless people.

Volunteers are asked to serve a 4-hour shift: 7 to 11; 11 to 3; or 3 to 7. Call **Mert Rutledge**, 847-882-6116, for information and to volunteer.



### Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian housing ministry that welcomes all people dedicated to building decent, affordable housing for families in need, while empowering families to help themselves. Habitat builds partnerships with diverse members of the community who break down the walls that divide, and builds a sense of community among all people. Habitat seeks to make safe, simple, decent housing for all people a matter of conscience and action.

*Our Redeemer's* members have been working with Habitat of Lake County on the Carter Woods development in Waukegan. That development is now complete. They need our help to pave the way to build 23 more homes in the new Carter Crossing development.

All ages and talents are welcome. We generally leave church Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m. and return by 4:30 p.m. The following dates are scheduled: December 16, January 27, February 24, and March 24. Please sign the Habitat poster in the Narthex if you would like to help.

For more information call **Mert Rutledge** at 847-882-6116.



## 4 Paws for Jason

The **Pelster** family, **Greg**, **Marlene**, **Jason** and **Andrew**, are some of our newest members at *Our Redeemer's*. Their 13-year-old son, Jason, is not your typical teenager. He has autism and is unable to speak. He depends on his parents to help him with many tasks during the day. Since the age of 6 months old, he has endured numerous doctor appointments, therapies, and treatments. Many of these interventions have been very tiring and hard for Jason.

Marlene, in her ongoing quest to help Jason, became aware of 4 Paws for Ability, a 501 c3 non - profit agency that specializes in training service dogs for children with disabilities. Jason and his family have been accepted into 4 Paws for Ability's program and an autism service dog will be specially trained to help Jason. His family is committed to raise the \$9,800 it costs 4 Paws to train an autism service dog.

Marlene is asking individuals, businesses and service organizations to help raise the funds needed to provide the service dog for Jason. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to 4 Paws for Ability in Jason's name, see Donna in the office for additional information and donation forms. For more information call **Marlene Pelster**, 847-882-6116, or email [mbpelster@earthlink.net](mailto:mbpelster@earthlink.net). You can also find more information on the 4 Paws website, [www.4pawsforability.org](http://www.4pawsforability.org).

## From Richard Vales

Hello to all **Our Redeemers United Methodist Church** members from the Philippines.

This is your friend and partner in this feeding ministry, Richard. I cannot tell you how much this check I just received will help in feeding the hungry here in the Philippines.

I was once told by a minister many years ago, don't worry about the money, just do God's work with all your heart and he will make sure the money will come. And it does, maybe not enough compared to all the people that go hungry each day. I was always told it is not how much you do for the Lord but how much love you put into what you are doing. My main goal is to feed as many people as we can. Thanks to you, my good friends at ORUMC. You cannot believe how much you are helping. I am lucky to have friends like you. No matter where people who need food are, we try to reach them all. Sometimes it can take days to reach them because the only way to reach them is by walking. But always it is a great feeling to help as many as we can.

Some times the word feeding hungry people is misunderstood. It means people who might not have eaten for several days. It means people who are truly hungry. We try to feed them all. But when the food is gone they are back to where they were before we gave them food. So the Lord is correct when he said do not give them fish; teach them how to fish.

That is exactly what I am planning to do and have been working on for months now.



I am going to take some families and give them food and some chickens and feed, and after the allotted time they will sell the chickens, and the money they get will help them buy more chickens and feed for the chickens, and food for their families. And if it works as we have planned it to work, they will be able to feed their families and become self-supporting. Praise the Lord. As we get closer to starting the program I will keep you informed.

Feeding people is my main goal, but there are things that also need to be done. We also provide medicine as often as we can and to the most seriously sick people. The money for this comes from my SS and I use my credit card when I can. Also several doctors, clinics, hospitals, and drug stores give me credit. I pay them as best I can and as often as I can. But I need to do what I need to do.

Several ministers go with us from different churches, and also teachers who teach the children about God. We believe prayer is very important in all we do and I ask all who read this please pray for us. There is not a day that goes by that I do not cry as I retire because of how little we have done compared to what needs to be done. So far ORUMC has helped us feed over 500 families; thank you again and again. 500 families have eaten because of your help! The food we give each family will last them one week if they eat a little at each meal. So that is seven days of food. We give them Christian books to read. We give them lots of love and I even make cookies. I am happy that God gave me this

job. I do not think I will ever get fired as no one wants the job. So I am safe!

Many of the churches I preach at give me a small amount of money to help me feed the people and they also donate food, clothing and toys that are no longer need. Clothing, pillows, sheets, rugs, old slippers and ever thing you can imagine. Pots, pans, vegetables, pasta, toilet paper, plastic spoons and forks, used plates. And the list goes on and on. I work more hours now than I ever did in my entire life and get no pay! But I was never this happy. As I said I preach on Sunday to earn money and bring God's word to many people. I teach the Bible study in the field every two weeks to also bring Jesus to people who do not know him. And many people have become Christians and have been baptized. I send email out every day to people who ask for our prayers and I send email out every day begging people, churches and companies to help us feed more hungry people. I try to get to bed by 12:00 P.M. but it's normally later. I get up at 5:30 A. M. every day and I eat my meals at my computer. And I walk most places I go to save money. I say what I say to let you know how devoted I am to doing this Job for Jesus, and not as a complaint. This is the best job I have ever had. I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart for your support of money and prayers. To date so far we have given out about 27,000 bags of food. Not bad but a long way to go.

## Matthew 6:33 is Coming Soon...

*“Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.”*

Matthew 6:33, *The Message*

ORUMC is adding a third worship service to our schedule starting Sunday evenings in the fall of 2007. Across the country, young adults in church congregations are few and far between. Maybe the reason is because they don’t feel connected to the church and haven’t found their niche in the church family—especially when most congregations are made up of members ages 30 and up.

ORUMC is taking this sad statistic and helping the younger demographic find their way back to church by providing a service that they can connect with and find their place in our church family. Although the target demographic for the Matthew 6:33 service is 13-30, it is not limited to that age group and we are confident that all will enjoy and benefit from this worship service. This modern service will be filled with upbeat, very contemporary music, much of which will be led by our live, youth Matthew 6:33 band.

The worship service itself will be diverse and incorporate such elements as drama, motivational speakers, technology, and ideas

from pop culture music, movies and TV.

The Matthew 6:33 committee is still in the planning stages of this worship service, and is looking for motivated, creative individuals to help them. So if you have creative ideas, an open mind, and are passionate about helping others connect with God, this committee is for you.

More information regarding Matthew 6:33 will be presented to the congregation in the weeks and months to come. Be looking for these advertisements to learn more.

If you are interested in joining the committee or would like more information, please contact **Lauri Marmorstone** at 847-882-6116 or e-mail at [lmarmorstone@yahoo.com](mailto:lmarmorstone@yahoo.com). The next planning meeting for Matthew 6:33 is Thursday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m.



## Blood Drive December 7

*Our Redeemer’s* will host the Schaumburg area blood drive on Thursday, December 7 from 3:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Feel free to drop in at any time even if you did not make a reservation to donate.

## A Very Blessed Christmas To All From Micah Ministries

Please consider joining this social justice ministry in 2007. We would love to have you!

*“Faith is recognizing that if at Christmas Jesus became like us, it was so that we might become more like him. We know what that means: watching Jesus heal the sick, empower the poor, and scorn the powerful, we see transparently the power of God at work.”*

William Sloane Coffin

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## Giving Envelopes

Giving envelopes for 2007 are available for pickup in the Narthex. If you would like envelopes and do not have 2006 envelopes, please contact **Donna** in the office, 847-882-6116.

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## Finance Report

The Finance Committee thanks you for your continuing support of *Our Redeemer's*. We are running slightly behind budgeted income and have covered most of the shortfall through careful expense management. Please review your giving and bring your pledge up to date so we can close the remaining gap by the end of the year.

### YTD Actual vs. Budget Through October 2006

	Actual	Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Congregation Gifts & Tithes	245,728	272,302	(26,574)	-10%
Sprint Rent	21,894	13,000	8,894	68%
Other Income	18,691	18,087	604	3%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>286,313</b>	<b>303,389</b>	<b>(17,076)</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>295,993</b>	<b>306,949</b>	<b>(10,956)</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(9,680)</b>	<b>(3,560)</b>	<b>(6,120)</b>	

## Crop Walk Total

Thank you again for your generous donations to the CROP Walk this year. Our final total was \$2,382, \$680 more than last year. *Our Redeemer's* is making a difference in our community and in our world.

Sorry, **Don Wiebel's** name was accidentally omitted from the list of walkers.

**Edie Machonis**

**Doug Meneely**

CROP Walk Co-Chairs

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## Church Ladies Nite Out

The Church Ladies will be going out Wednesday December 13 at 7:00 p.m. to Bobalucci. Bobalucci is located at Gulf and Grand Canyon Roads near the Hoffman Estates High School. Please join us and bring a friend! If you need a ride or have any questions, please call **Bev Wilkes** at 847-882-6116. Come join us in good friendship, good fun and good food!



## Personal Notes



### Dear friends and family,

Words are inadequate. Words are just printed letters and can't possibly convey the emotion, gratitude and affection I feel for each of you who gave and walked and supported me and my family at the Out of the Darkness Community Walk Saturday. Thank you to the Prayer Shawl women who presented me with a beautiful blue crocheted shawl (that I wore the whole walk) which made me feel as if I was walking with a loving hug from all of them.

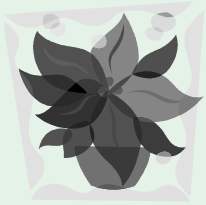
Two years ago, when we did our first walk 7 months after we lost **Skyler**, there were about 50 participants. Last year I would guess about 125. Saturday, there were 400 people walking together to raise money and bring suicide and depression to light.

Before the walk there are tables set up with information and opportunities to help those of us left devastated by our missing child, brother, sister, parent, friend. I was able to meet a woman, **Paula**, I had talked to via email and phone, (after a mutual acquaintance got us connected), after Paula's 17 year old son took his life this past October 9. The pain and grief is so fresh on her face, in the way she holds her body. We cried and hugged and talked about how we miss our sons and Paula asked me how I got through it.

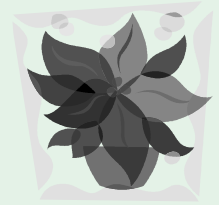
It is because of programs like AFSP (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention) and LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) that I am getting through this with some semblance of sanity. Mostly, it is because of all of you that I am getting through this. I thank you for your thoughts and prayers for my family and me, for all of the times you didn't shrink away when I talked about Skyler. For the sympathetic, yet not pitying looks you gave me as my eyes filled up at a moments notice, even if we'd been laughing a second before... for the silent hugs and pats and warm smiles. For helping by saying the name of a loved one at a Thanksgiving candle-lighting ritual that was so hard to initiate. For not forgetting. Thank you for never, ever forgetting.

Thank you for realizing that my children and I will never be the same, and letting us grieve when we need to and when it just pops up unexpectedly because we hear a song or a smell that reminds us of our Sky Guy. Thanks for understanding that Skyler's aunts and cousins and relatives will never be the same, and friends, too, because you've all been affected indirectly because you know us. So thank you again, everyone. It's bearable because of your caring and loving.

Sincerely,  
**Sue Zimmeroff**



## The Promise of Christmas



*by JoAnne Gregorash*

As we prepare to once again celebrate the birth of the Babe that was sent to save us all, we stop and give our highest praise to Our Lord for sending us His Son.

At *Our Redeemer's* it is our tradition to celebrate the promise of new life by filling the sanctuary with flowers for Christmas. As in the past, members and friends are given the opportunity to purchase Poinsettias (red, white and pink) and "lend" them to the church to decorate our sanctuary in Honor of the Blessed Event.

That Christ came to us as a babe to save us from our sins is the best reason I know for a celebration. We invite all members or friends to continue this tradition and for those who are new to *Our Redeemer's* to become part of our celebration.

Ordering is easy. You simply need to fill in the form below and drop it in the collection plate or mail it to church with your payment. The price this year will be \$11.25. We will order for you, take delivery for you and decorate for you. After Christmas, you may take your flowers home and enjoy their beauty in your own house. The deadline for ordering this year is **Sunday, Sunday, December 10.**

Won't you help us celebrate Christ's birth in this small way so all may look around and enjoy the beauty of the flowers and remember the promise of this special day; the day of birth that gives hope and peace to us all.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_



*Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church*

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